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The Cold War through the eyes of a potato?

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What do JFK's archnemesi Nikita Kruschev and Hasbro's Mr. Potato Head have in common?

Not so much, until you ponder the deep philosophical implications of "Spudnik," an animated comedy short by Fitchburg filmmaker Jeff "Jeffu" Warmouth.

In his 6-minute "sci-fri history of potato space exploration," Warmouth jams in more corny (potato-ey?) puns than your coolest high school science teacher. "Spudnik" debuted last year at the DeCordova Museum in Lincoln, but will be making its first film festival appearance this weekend at the Boston Underground Film Festival.

"I'm very excited to debut in an Underground festival, since the Potatopian culture originated underground," Warmouth says.

The filmmaker has not received any feedback from the potato industry, but recently was amused to discover the existence of a potato-harvesting machine called the Spudnik!

To my disappointment, the Soviet potato leader in Warmouth's film does not bang a pair of plastic Mr. Potato Head shoes on the United Nations podium.

Looking for edgier fare this weekend?

The Boston Underground Film Festival, which screens March 20-23 at the Brattle Theatre in Cambridge, will be celebrating the career of Brown University/Rhode Island School of Design graduate Leah Meyerhoff, who has screened her work at Cannes.

Here's a sampling of Meyerhoff's "underground" street cred:

WONDERFLUFF SANDWICHES -- "A lonely housewife obsessed with saran wrap meets a leather chick preoccupied with duct tape. Together they discover the hidden pleasures of household products."

Yup, another "Girl-Meets-Girl-Meets-Saran-Wrap" story. And...

PACMOUSE -- "If breeding were a video game the mice would have the highest score."

Pretty safe to say that things won't be boring this weekend at the Brattle...

Learn more about the full slate of quirky independent films at the BUFF 2008 Web site.

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